

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00  
ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13  
L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02  
INT-05 FEA-01 /106 W  
-----150831Z 044820/17

R 150815Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2577  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USLO PEKING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BWWT, SEVN, TN

SUBJECT: OIL SPILL NEAR KEELUNG HARBOR

THE "BORAG", A FULLY-LOADED 21,600 DWT KUWAITI TANKER, WENT AROUND A WEEK AGO ON A SHOAL NEAR THE PORT OF KEELUNG. IT IS LEAKING BADLY, BUT RESULTING OIL POLLUTION HAS NOT INTERFERED WITH NORMAL PORT OPERATIONS. IT MAY, HOWEVER, CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE COOLING SYSTEMS OF NEARBY THERMAL POWER PLANTS. THESE PLANTS HAVE TEMPORARILY REDUCED POWER OUTPUT, BUT THE DANGER APPEARS TO BE LESSENING, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, AND REDUCTIONS HAVE NOT CAUSED ANY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES. VARIOUS TEAMS OF FOREIGN EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT ARE BEING FLOWN IN TO TRY TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN AD HOC GROC COMMITTEE. EARLY EFFORTS TO OFFLOAD REMAINING OIL AND CONTAIN SPILL WERE HAMPERED BY WEATHER AND APPARENT LACK OF EQUIPMENT, KNOW-HOW, ORGANIZATION AND OFFICIAL WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY. POLLUTION IN HARBORAPPEARS TO BE ABATING, BUT SHIP IS STILL IN SOME DANGER OF BREAKING UP. ALL PERSONS ABOARD THE VESSEL

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WERE RESCUED. FORMAL RESPONSIBILITY HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED; HOWEVER, NORMALLY RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATE THAT THIS WAS VESSEL'S FIRST VOYAGE TO KEELUNG, THAT SHIP'S CAPTAIN WAS IGNORANT OF OR IGNORED PROPER HARBOR ENTRY PROCEDURES, AND THAT THERE WAS NO CHART OF DANGER AREA ABOARD SHIP. IRONICALLY, THE DISASTROUS TRIP TO KEELUNG WAS TO HAVE BEEN BORAG'S LAST VOYAGE BEFORE BEING TAKEN TO KAOHSIUNG TO BE SCRAPPED. THIS

IS FIRST SIGNIFICANT OIL SPILL IN TAIWANESE WATERS. AIRGRAM

WILL FOLLOW.

UNGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OIL SPILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TAIPEI00875  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770053-0279  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TAIPEI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770238/aaaabiaq.tel  
**Line Count:** 65  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4f254bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3313136  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OIL SPILL NEAR KEELUNG HARBOR THE \'BORAGI\', A FULLY-LOADED 21,600 DWT KUWAITI TANKER, WENT AROUND A WEEK AGO ON A SHOAL NEAR THE PORT OF KEE  
**TAGS:** EWWT, SENV, ENRG, TW, KU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4f254bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009